

*20 19.* (Twice Amended) The image observation apparatus as claimed in claim 18,  
wherein the controller resets a parameter[, for controlling the image being displayed on the  
image display device on a basis of the detecting signal from the second detector, into a  
predetermined value,] to a predetermined value when the first detector detects that the user  
stops observing the image, said parameter being a parameter for controlling the image  
being displayed on the image display device on a basis of the detecting signal from the  
second detector.

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the  
following remarks.

At the outset, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended  
during the interview conducted on July 12, 2000.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, 5 and 12 have been  
amended in light of the conversation during the interview with the Examiner on July 12,  
2000. Claims 6-8 have been amended for consistency with claim 5. Claims 15, 18 and 19  
have been amended for clarity.

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being  
unpatentable over the Tabata patent (U.S. patent No. 5,579,026) in view of the Hirano et  
al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 3,812,489). In addition, independent claims 5 and 12 were  
rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Tabata patent in

view of the Tonosaki patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,948). The remaining dependent claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable for reasons set forth in the Office Action.

During the interview on July 12, 2000, the Examiner indicated that the rejections of claims 1, 5 and 12 would likely be overcome subject to further search if these claims were amended to recite that the controller stops changing the image which is displayed on the image display device when the operational member is operated (claim 1), when the first detector detects that the user does not observe the image being displayed (claim 5), and when the first detector detects that the user stops observing the image (claim 12), respectively. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the controller does not allow changing the image which is displayed on the image display device in response to the signal which is output from the detector when the operational member is operated. In addition, claim 5 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the controller does not allow changing the image being displayed on the image display device in response to the signal which is output from the second detector when the first detector detects that the user does not observe the image being displayed on the image display device. Further, claim 12 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the controller sets at least one setting condition of the image observation apparatus to a predetermined condition such that the image which is displayed on the image display device is not allowed to change when the first detector detects that the user stops observing the image.

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In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 1, 5 and 12. The remaining dependent claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 5 and 12, and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is also respectfully requested. Accordingly, allowance of all claims of record (claims 1-20) is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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